

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02446 191451Z

46

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 MMO-01 PM-04 INR-07

INRE-00 L-03 DODE-00 SP-02 /039 W
----- 082341

O R 191400Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3412

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, HO

SUBJECT: MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY

REF: STATE 119079 (DTG 141703Z MAY 76)

1. AS TO THIS MISSION'S VIEW OF ITS RELATIVE PRIORITY OF IMPORTANCE IN THE OVERALL PROSECUTION OF POLICIES AND PRACTICES AFFECTING VITAL U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS, IT MUST BE STATED THAT THE U.S. MILGP IN HONDURAS IS NOT IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS THAT OF SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN OR WEST GERMANY. NEVERTHELESS, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MILGP TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THIS MISSION CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED.

2. THE QUESTION OF MILGP STATUS IN THE POST FY-77 TIME-FRAME IS NOT OF SUCH IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO THIS MISSION AS IS THE STATUS OF THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN HONDURAS DURING FY-77. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE QUESTION OF DIS-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MILGP ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1976 HAS BEEN RESOLVED THERE IS LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY THE REPETITION OF MISSION COMMENTS ON THE MERITS OF MILGP EXISTENCE AFTER THE COMING FISCAL YEAR. HOWEVER, A RESTATEMENT OF PREVIOUS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02446 191451Z

INPUTS ON THE MATTER FOLLOWS:

(A) THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF U.S. OBJECTIVES IN HONDURAS. IT IS CLEAR THAT U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE HONDURAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE CENTRAL ROLE THE MILITARY PLAYS IN DIRECTING THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICIES. THIS WILL REMAIN TRUE EVEN IF THERE IS A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN DIRECTING THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HONDURAN SOCIETY. THEREFORE, A REASONABLE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE DOES PROVIDE REAL ADDITIONAL LEVERAGE TO THE U.S. MISSION;

(B) U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IS A "FOOT IN THE DOOR" FOR ANY FUTURE CONTINGENCY WHICH COULD DEVELOP. TO ELIMINATE THIS PRESENCE IS TO POSSIBLY LESSEN OUR FUTURE ABILITY TO REENTER THE HONDURAN POLITICAL/MILITARY SCENE;

(C) HONDURAS, ALONG WITH ITS OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN NEIGHBORS, HAS A RELATIVELY STRONG PERCEPTION OF THE CUBAN THREAT. HONDURAN LEADERS REGARD THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY AS AN IMPORTANT ASSURANCE OF U.S. INTEREST AND CONCERN VIS-A-VIS THIS POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT. ELIMINATION OF THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE WOULD SIGNAL TO THE GOH AND MANY HONDURANS A REDUCED USG CONCERN FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN SECURITY;

(D) THE POSSIBLE ELIMINATION OF THE MILGP IN HONDURAS WOULD PROBABLY CAUSE MANY MEMBERS OF THE HONDURAN MILITARY TO REACT NEGATIVELY. MANY HONDURAN OFFICERS STILL HARBOR LATENT RESENTMENT ABOUT WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS A U.S. FAILURE TO COME TO HONDURAS' AID IN THE 1969 WAR WITH EL SALVADOR. THIS LATENT ATTITUDE COULD BECOME ACTIVE IF THE MILGP IS ELIMINATED, WITH CONSEQUENT DAMAGE TO U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT;

(E) THERE IS A PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE THE DAO OFFICE IN HONDURAS BY SEPTEMBER 1977. THE ELIMINATION OF BOTH MILGP AND DAO OFFICES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DEPRIVE THE MISSION OF A SIGNIFICANT PART OF ITS ABILITY TO FAVORABLY INFLUENCE BILATERAL RELATIONS; AND

(F) THERE COULD BE SOME REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL WITHOUT HARM TO THE MILGP'S ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS, THOUGH AS LONG AS THERE IS A SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, EIGHT PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 02446 191451Z

WILL BE NEEDED. ADDITIONALLY, A CHANGE IN MILGP DESIGNATION AND SOME ADJUSTMENT IN FUNCTIONS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS. THE EMBASSY IS CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ELIMINATION OF THE MILGP WOULD MATERIALLY LESSEN THE POSSIBILITY OF INFLUENCING THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND, BY EXTENSION, THE GOH. SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION CAN BE EXPECTED TO LIMIT OUR ABILITY TO PROMOTE U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS IN A COUNTRY RULED PRESENTLY, AND

FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, BY THE MILITARY.
SOWASH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, REPORTS, ATTACHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEGUCI02446
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760194-0110
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760535/aaaabeaq.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 119079
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY
TAGS: MASS, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006